

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 02497 211038Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W

-----212017Z 041255 /46

R 210247Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6955

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MY

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON STUDENT ACTIVISM

1. IN A CONVERSATION AFTER DINNER AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR TOLD ME THAT THE RELATIVE TRANQUILITY ON CAMPUSES WAS NOT DUE ENTIRELY TO CLOSE SURVEILLANCE AND STRICT LIMITATIONS ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES IMPOSED BY THE GOM ON STUDENTS LAST YEAR. HE AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE MAKING THEMSELVES AVAILABLE ON A CONTINUING BASIS FOR MEETING WITH STUDENT GROUPS TO EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. THESE EXCHANGES, HE SAID, HAVE HELPED TO SHAKE STUDENT CONVICTIONS OF MORAL INFALLIBILITY AND BRING THEM FACE TO FACE WITH THE REALITIES AND COMPROMISES WHICH MUST BE MADE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT. SOME MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD IN TRAINING CENTERS OVER THE WEEKEND WHERE SESSIONS HAD GONE INTO THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING. ACCESSIBILITY OF SENIOR OFFICERS TO THE STUDENTS IN ITSELF WAS DESIRABLE, HE MAINTAINED, AND HE AND THE OTHER OFFICIALS HAD BENEFITTED FROM THE FRANK EXPRESSION OF STUDENT ATTITUDES.

2. MAHATHIR SAID FURTHER THAT IN HIS TRAVELS ABROAD HE MADE IT A POINT TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH MALAYSIAN STUDENT GROUPS AND ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 02497 211038Z

3. COMMENT: THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES TO HOLD THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO, AND AS A FORMER CONTROVERSIAL NON-CONFORMIST, FINDS IT DESIRABLE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIS SPIRITUAL COUNTERPARTS IN THE YOUNGER GENERATION. HIS UNASSAILABLE POSITION AS A SPOKESMAN FOR MALAY ASPIRATIONS PUTS HIM IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO CRITICIZE

MALAY FAILURES AND SHORTCOMINGS, AND HE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT
ROLE IN THIS CAPABILITY.
UNDERHILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUALA02497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-0272
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770435/aaaabdcy.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43f3b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2740203
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON STUDENT ACTIVISM
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MY, (MAHATHIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43f3b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009